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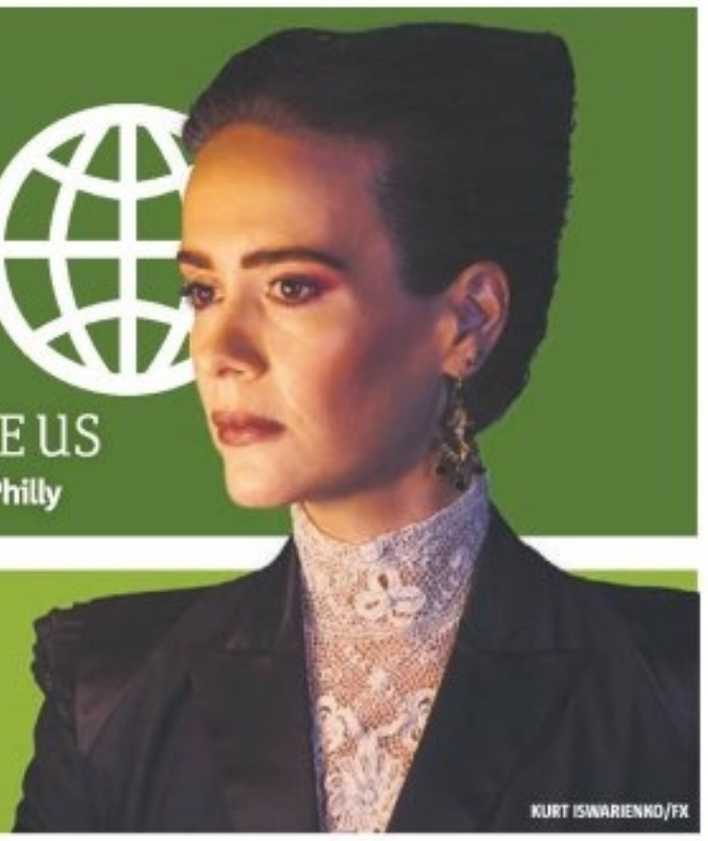

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IMMORTAL HEROES

President Trump paid tribute to "the 40" passengers and crew on United 93 during Tuesday's 9/11 ceremony honoring the victims of that fateful day. 3

GETTY IMAGES

5 THINGS TO KNOW

WELCOME TO METRO PHILLY

SAM NEWHOUSE, REPORTER

The news just doesn't stop in Philadelphia, and this issue of Metro makes that clear. Over in Western Pa., President Trump visited the Shanksville field where United 93 crashed on 9/11 after 40 passengers and crew overpowered hijackers intent on hurtling the plane into the White House, foiling the plot and losing their lives in the process. Trump bestowed his highest honors on "the 40." Meanwhile, a South Philly school closed early after its ceiling collapsed due to rain in the latest symptom of the School District's aged, underfunded infrastructure, and a group of 80 first responders from Philadelphia went to South Carolina to help prepare for Hurricane Florence. Read it all inside and on **metrophilly.us.**

1 TRUMP PROMISES ALL-OUT HURRICANE RESPONSE

President Donald Trump on Tuesday said the federal government would spare no expense in responding to the likely damage from Hurricane Florence, which is forecast to hit the Carolina coast later this week. "Congress will be very generous, because we have no choice," Trump told reporters at the White House as he met with top aides and federal disaster officials. "Any amounts of money, whatever it takes, we're going to do it." In remarks aimed at Americans who could find themselves in harm's way, the president noted that experts were predicting a storm the likes of which the East Coast of the United States has not seen in decades. "We've never seen anything quite like this, on the East Coast at least," he said. "I would say everybody should get out. ... It's going to be really, really bad along the coast." Federal forecasters expect the storm to make landfall on Friday with 130 mph winds and massive waves, with rains taking a heavy toll inland.

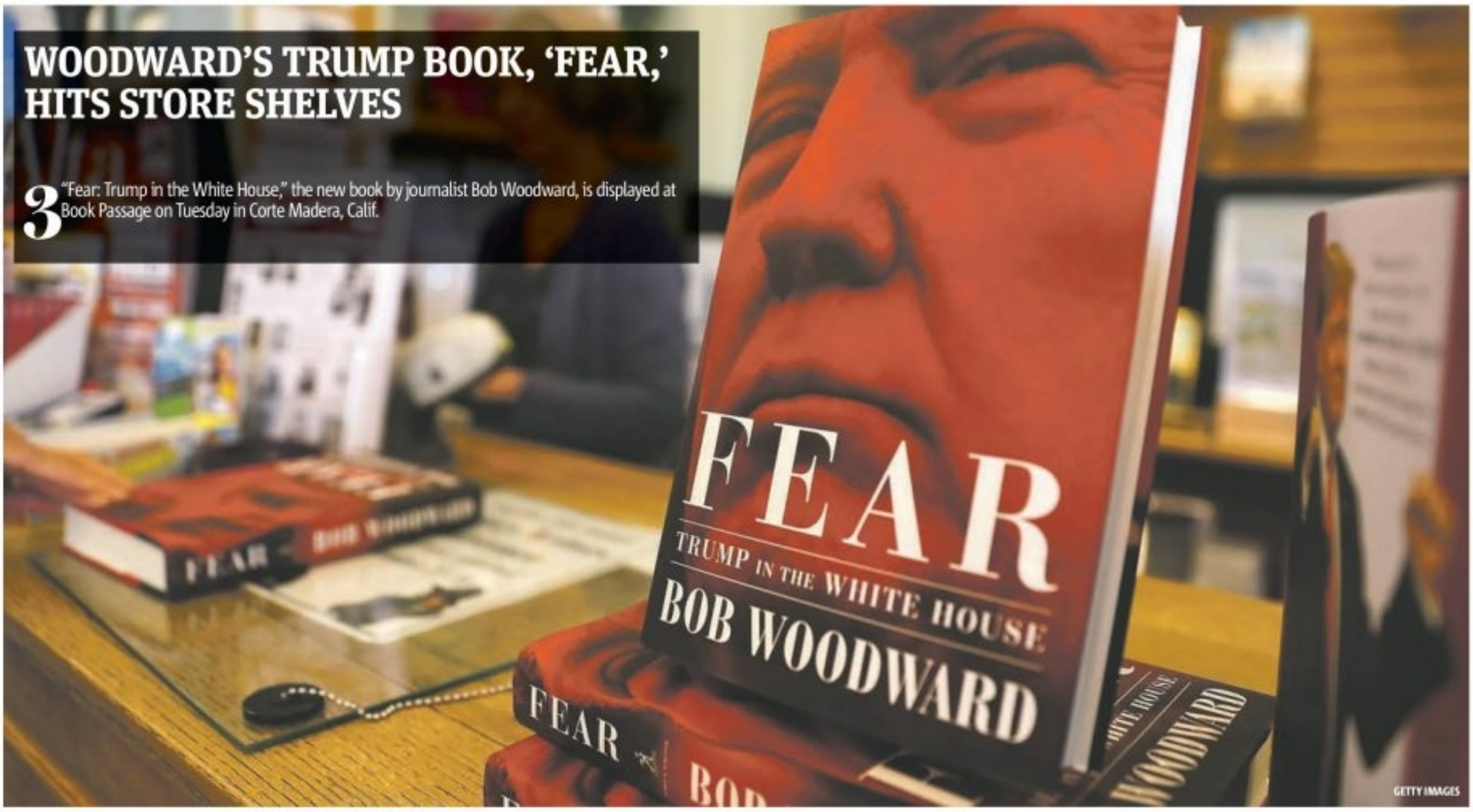
Read more on Hurricane Florence on pages 6-7.

2 NICK CARTER WILL NOT BE CHARGED IN SEX CASE

Los Angeles prosecutors said on Tuesday they would not charge Backstreet Boys singer Nick Carter over a 2003 sexual assault accusation because it fell outside the California statute of limitations. The Los Angeles District Attorney's office said it had reviewed the accusation by a woman who was 18 years old at the time, but said the statute of limitations had expired in 2013. "An analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the evidence is not warranted, and the matter is declined," prosecutors said in a charge evaluation worksheet released to the media. They gave no details of the case, but Carter last year denied an allegation that he raped a teen pop singer 15 years ago. An attorney for Carter, whose band is currently playing a long-term engagement in Las Vegas, said in a statement on Tuesday that the singer was "happy to put the matter behind him." "Nick has denied these allegations ever since he first learned of them last year," attorney Michael Holtz said in the statement. The Backstreet Boys were one of the biggest boy bands of the late 1990s and early 2000s.

3 WOODWARD'S TRUMP BOOK, 'FEAR,' HITS STORE SHELVES

"Fear: Trump in the White House," the new book by journalist Bob Woodward, is displayed at Book Passage on Tuesday in Corte Madera, Calif.



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4 MMA'S MONSON ELECTED TO RUSSIA COUNCIL

U.S. mixed martial arts fighter Jeffrey Monson, granted Russian citizenship by President Vladimir Putin in May, was elected on Sunday to the council of deputies of a small city just outside Moscow, official election results showed on Monday. Monson, 47, a tattooed cage fighter known as The Snowman, registered in June to run for a seat on the council of Krasnogorsk, northwest of Moscow, where election documents say he now works as a coach in a sports club. On the website of Moscow region's election commission, Monson is listed as fourth on the ruling United Russia party's list of candidates for the Krasnogorsk city council. United Russia won 47.9 percent of this vote, automatically securing a seat for the MMA fighter, who was born in the U.S. state of Minnesota. Writing on social media, Monson, who has previously cultivated ties to the Russian Communist Party, said he ran as an independent. "I was invited by United Russia party to run but I am independent. Unfortunately I learned there are no communists in Communist party in Russia," Monson said on Monday.

5 ELIZABETH SMART ABDUCTOR TO BE RELEASED

A street preacher's wife who helped abduct 14-year-old Elizabeth Smart in 2002 will walk out of a Utah prison next week after serving 15 years for her part in a kidnapping that focused national attention on the issue of crime against children. Smart was taken at knifepoint from the bed she shared with her younger sister. Brian David Mitchell was sentenced to life imprisonment after being convicted of the kidnapping and unlawful transportation of a minor across state lines to engage in sexual activity. His wife, Wanda Barzee, pleaded guilty to kidnapping and unlawfully transporting a minor, and was sentenced to 15 years in prison. Barzee first served a prison term for a federal sentence, before being transported to Utah for the rest of her state sentence, which was initially calculated to end in January 2024, said Greg Johnson, the administrative coordinator for the Utah Board of Pardons and Parole. Johnson added that the board later determined it had not counted Barzee's federal time served against her state penalty and found after a review and legal advice that her Utah sentence should end on Sept. 19.

Trump honors United 93 at 9/11 ceremony in Shanksville

On the 17th anniversary of 9/11, President Donald Trump visited the United 93 memorial in Shanksville.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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On the 17th anniversary of 9/11, President Donald Trump visited the United 93 memorial in Shanksville and gave remarks honoring those who lost their lives that day.

"On Sept. 11, 2001, a band of brave patriots turned the tide on our nation's enemies and joined the immortal ranks of our nation's heroes," Trump said. "At this memorial on this sacred earth, on the field behind this wall, and in the skies above our heads, we remember the moment when America fought back."

Thousands were killed in New York City when two planes hit the Twin Towers as part of a terrorist plot, and hundreds more were injured in the ensuing collapse and years of sickness due to toxic materials released into the air that day. Hundreds were killed and injured in Washington, D.C. when a third plane hit the Pentagon.

But the fourth hijacked plane, United 93, which was believed to be headed for the White House, never made it to its destination. That's thanks to the 40 crew members and passengers — ordinary men and women who learned from their cellphones that the hijackers had used other planes to attack the World Trade Center and Pentagon. Realizing their plane was going to be turned into a weapon, the crew and passengers took a vote, then decided to storm the cockpit.

President Donald Trump greets the crowd as he arrives at the Johnstown-Cambria County Airport on his way to the United 93 memorial on Tuesday.
GETTY IMAGES

"They boarded the plane as strangers, and they entered eternity linked forever as true heroes," Trump said. "They attacked the enemy. They fought until the very end, and they stopped the forces of terror and defeated this wicked, horrible, evil plan. Through their sacrifice, the 40 saved the lives of countless Americans, and they saved our Capitol from a devastating strike."

Passenger Todd Beamer's rallying cry of "Let's roll!" was heard just minutes before the plane crashed into an empty field in Pennsylvania. It is believed the hijackers crashed the plane as the passengers and crew swarmed the cockpit.

"This field is now a monument to American defiance. This memorial is now a message to the world: America will never, ever submit to tyranny," Trump said. "A piece of America's heart is buried on these grounds, but in its place has grown a new resolve to live our lives with the same grace as the heroes of Flight 93."

The passengers' revolt began around 9:57 a.m. The plane crashed minutes later, at 10:03 a.m., flying at a speed of 563 miles per hour into the field in Shanksville, Pa. At the time, the plane was just 20 minutes of flight time away from Washington, D.C.

Today, a 2,200-acre park around the crash site has been turned into a permanent memorial, with a wall bearing the names of the United 93 victims, as well as educational facilities and footpaths around the site. There are flower beds and trees that have been newly planted at the site, and a special, private, families-only site where original pieces of the wreckage of United 93 are buried.

"We all hope that, faced with a similar situation, we might make the same choice," said Gov. Tom Wolf. "The people on that flight were truly special. They were truly heroes."

Heavy rain causes ceiling collapse at South Philly high school

The Academy at Palumbo School at South 11th and Catharine streets was closed early Tuesday due to a ceiling collapse following heavy rains. PROVIDED

The Academy at Palumbo School will be closed due to heavy rainfall causing flooding and a ceiling collapse.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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Just weeks into the new school year, the School District of Philadelphia is having an increasingly tough time. On Tuesday, a South Philly high school shut down early for repairs after the ceiling collapsed due to weeks of heavy rainfall.

"The Academy at Palumbo School was impacted by flooding from heavy rains over the weekend. School was dismissed at 1 p.m.," School District spokesman Lee Whack said via email on Tuesday afternoon. "This morning students were relocated to parts of the building that were not impacted, like the auditorium, and alternate arrangements were made for breakfast and lunch. Several classrooms, hallways and the cafeteria have been affected."

But while leaks and flooding in schools is for many a fact of life, to leaders, it highlights stark deficiencies in the School District's aged infrastructure. The first week of the new school year started one week earlier than usual, the week of Aug. 27, in part to start the academic calendar with one full week of school.

But instead of a full week, all public schools closed early on several days that week and a few the following week, due to a prolonged, record-setting heat wave. Most Philly schools do not have function air-conditioning.

"The extensive water damage at Palumbo High School is another example of the failure of state and federal elected leaders to significantly invest attention and resources to our nation's aging infrastructure," Philadelphia Federation of Teachers president Jerry Jordan said in a statement on Tuesday. "These types of incidents are made sadder by the fact that they are completely avoidable. … The PFT will be working closely with the District to deal with the immediate problem of getting things back on track for the educators and students at Palumbo. But we must also continue to pressure our elected officials to take the long view, and pass budgets that address the schools, streets and public spaces used by our communities and schoolchildren."

On Sept. 4, Jordan and other leaders called on state legislators to address the District's ongoing funding needs with new investments.

For example, bringing central air to the 137 school buildings that lack it would cost about $1 million per site, according to Mayor Jim Kenney.

Reeling from revelations of environmental hazards due to lead paint, asbestos and mold issues, the School District undertook a massive $15 million summer-long cleanup, half-funded by the state, to stabilize and address the hazards. While that project was reported a success, clearly more work remains to be done.

Plans for reopening Palumbo were not available at press time. Palumbo students, families and the public are urged to visit philasd.org for updates.

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How to safely grow old at home

Illuminated Hearts

ASK ILLUMINATED HEARTS:

Most seniors prefer to live out their golden years in the comfort of their own homes. Commonly referred to as "aging in place," it's a big decision that really comes down to creating a safe, supportive environment. Illuminated Hearts, a Philadelphia home-care provider, helps families navigate the journey.

What are the benefits of aging at home, as opposed to moving into a live-in facility?

The biggest benefit is that you get to live out the rest of your days in a community you love. Aging in place really just means living safely, independently and comfortably in your own home with the familiar surroundings of a supportive community.

What are the challenges of aging at home?

Aging in place comfortably and safely all depends on the person's health and support needs. The most important thing is to make sure that aging at home is indeed the safest option. Does the home have any issues that present a risk? Does the neighborhood itself seem safe? Are family and friends close by and able to provide support when needed? Are shopping and services accessible? In other words, we need a safe home and active support network to age in place.

How does Illuminated Hearts help solve these challenges?

Illuminated hearts provides a wide range of services to help eliminate these challenges. Our caregivers come directly to your home to make sure you have a safe environment to age in place. We provide assistance with getting the services you need to remain healthy so that you can function as independently as possible in your own home. This includes:

- Assisting with activities of daily living
- Medication management
- Escorting you to appointments
- Assisting with running errands

What if I have a family member who's willing to care for me at home? What resources are available to them?

Illuminated hearts can provide employment to family members who qualify to assist with the aging-in-place process. As an employee, the family member receives the relevant training and certifications necessary to provide these services.

Making the decision to age in place is a big

one. Illuminated Hearts can help guide you and your loved ones through the process. We're located at 2231 Bryn Mawr Avenue. Learn more by visiting www.ICareForPA.com or calling (215) 921-6624.

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Southeast braces for 'days and days' of floods from Florence

The strengthening hurricane may dump as much as 30 inches of rain.

The powerful Hurricane Florence threatened to bring "days and days" of rain and potentially deadly flooding to the U.S. southeastern coast, North Carolina's governor warned on Tuesday, as some one million people were ordered to evacuate their homes.

The storm threatened to hit coastal North and South Carolina with 130 mph winds and massive waves when it makes landfall on Friday, and its rains will take a heavy toll for miles inland, the National Hurricane Center in Miami warned.

The storm was getting bigger and better organized and is expected to continue to strengthen for the next day or so, the NHC said.

"This storm is a monster," North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper said at a news conference on Tuesday. "It's an extremely dangerous, life-threatening, historic hurricane. The forecast shows Florence stalling over North Carolina, bringing days and days of rain."

Cooper and his counterparts in neighboring South Carolina and Virginia ordered about one million people to evacuate coastal homes, including along the Outer Banks barrier islands. Officials in South Carolina reversed the flow of traffic on some highways so that all major roads led away from the sea to speed evacuations.

Shelters were set up in the area to take in those who could not evacuate.

The slow-moving storm, the most severe hurricane to threaten the U.S. mainland this year, was rated a Category 4 on the five-step Saffir-Simpson scale and located about 845 miles east-southeast of Cape Fear, N.C., at 1:30 p.m. ET, according to the NHC.

President Donald Trump on Tuesday signed declarations of emergency for both North and South Carolina, freeing up federal money and resources for storm response. Officials have declared states of emergency in North and South Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia.

In addition to flooding the coast with wind-driven storm surges of seawater as high as 12 feet, Florence could drop 20 inches to as much as 30 inches of rain in places, forecasters said.

"This storm is going to be a direct hit on our coast," said Jeff Byard, associate administrator for response and recovery at the Federal Emergency Management Agency. "We are planning for devastation."

Not everyone was in a hurry to leave. Charles Mullen, 81, a longtime resident of Hatteras Island, N.C., said he had ridden out many storms and that most locals were planning to stay unless Florence took aim at Hatteras.

"If it decides to come here, we're gone," he said.

Residents prepared by boarding up their homes and stripping grocery stores bare of food, water and supplies. Some gas stations also ran low on fuel.

"This is still a very dangerous storm," South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster said at a Tuesday news conference. REUTERS

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Philly sends first responders to battle Florence

Philly firefighters and other first responders with PA-Task Force 1 traveled to the Carolinas on Tuesday to help fight Hurricane Florence.
COURTESY OF PHILA. FIRE DEPARTMENT

As residents of the Carolinas and Virginia evacuate their homes, bracing for landfall by the now-Category 4 Hurricane Florence, first responders from the Philadelphia area will be joining the fight.

Some 80 members of PA-Task Force 1 arrived in South Carolina on Tuesday to assist with preparation, clean-up and other disaster-related efforts in the region.

A convoy of trucks filled with resources and equipment left the Tacony area around 12:30 a.m. Tuesday morning. They began a 630-mile trek to a base of operations in South Carolina. Fourty-two of the group are members of the Philadelphia Fire Department. The rest of the first responders are from various agencies around the Philadelphia region.

PA-Task Force 1 is sponsored by the Philadelphia Fire Department, and is one of 28 urban search-and-rescue groups under the supervision of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

They were activated by FEMA to assist along the U.S. southeastern coast, where Florence's rage has forced residents to abandon their homes, while flights and trains are canceled as the full might of the storm has yet to make landfall.

PA-Task Force 1 previously has helped out during disasters including hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.

While the Philadelphia region is in the path of Florence for late Thursday, it is expected that the hurricane will have weakened by that point, or could possibly be pushed back southward by a growing high-pressure system in the northeast. *Check back with metrophilly.us for the latest updates.* SAM NEWHOUSE

BRIEF

Two games canceled as hurricane nears Carolina, Virginia coasts

Two major nonconference football games scheduled in the state of North Carolina have been called off this weekend.

No. 14 West Virginia's visit to North Carolina State, along with No. 18 Central Florida's game at North Carolina, were nixed from Saturday's schedule because of concerns about the forecast path of Hurricane Florence, which was elevated to a Category 4 storm on Tuesday. School officials announced early Tuesday afternoon that the games are off.

Meanwhile, the ACC game Thursday night between visiting Boston College and Wake Forest in Winston-Salem has been moved up two hours, to 5:30 p.m. ET.

Hurricane models project landfall by Thursday, but some expect the storm to hit North Carolina and others project a dramatic rotation north, bringing heavy rain to the Carolinas and high winds and potential for a disastrous flood incident to Virginia and West Virginia.

National Hurricane Center director Ken Graham said in Raleigh, N.C., on Tuesday that Florence is "staggering" in size and reminded residents that with potential for more than 20 inches of rain over a three- to five-day period, this will not be only a "coastal event."

South Carolina and Clemson still have home games scheduled Saturday. East Carolina University, meanwhile, canceled classes for the rest of the week. The Pirates are scheduled to visit Virginia Tech on Saturday.

"It's important to get the notion across to the team that they can't worry or assume anything," Hokies coach Justin Fuente said. "We just don't know what's going to happen, and we have no control over that. We have to worry about the things we can control." REUTERS

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Russia starts biggest war games since Soviet fall near China

Both NATO and the United States have said they'll be monitoring the exercises.

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Russia began its biggest war games since the fall of the Soviet Union on Tuesday close to its border with China, mobilizing 300,000 troops in a show of force that will include joint exercises with the Chinese army.

China and Russia have staged joint drills before but not on such a large scale, and the Vostok-2018 (East-2018) exercise signals closer military ties as well as sending an unspoken reminder to Beijing that Moscow is able and ready to defend its sparsely populated far east.

Vostok-2018 is taking place at a time of heightened tension between the West and Russia, and NATO has said it will monitor the exercise closely, as will the United States, which has a strong military presence in the Asia-Pacific region.

Russia's Ministry of Defence broadcast images on Tuesday of columns of tanks, armored vehicles and warships on the move, and combat helicopters and fighter aircraft taking off.

In one clip, marines from Russia's Northern Fleet and a motorized Arctic brigade were shown disembarking from a large landing ship on a barren shore opposite Alaska.

This activity was part of the first stage of the exercise, which runs until Sept. 17, the ministry said in a statement. It involved deploying additional forces to Russia's far east and a naval build-up involving its Northern and Pacific fleets.

The main aim was to check the military's readiness to move troops large distances, to test how closely infantry and naval forces cooperated, and to perfect command and control procedures. Later stages will involve rehearsals of both defensive and offensive scenarios.

Russia also staged a major naval exercise in the eastern Mediterranean this month and its jets resumed bombing the Syrian region of Idlib, the last major enclave of rebels fighting its ally, President Bashar al-Assad.

The location of the main training range for Vostok-2018 3,000 miles east of Moscow means it is likely to be watched closely by Japan, North and South Korea as well as by China and Mongolia, both of whose armies will take part in the maneuvers later this week.

36K

Up to 36,000 tanks and armored vehicles

Analysts say Moscow had to invite the Chinese and Mongolian militaries given the proximity of the war games to their borders and because the scale meant the neighboring countries would probably have seen them as a threat had they been excluded.

The exercise — which will involve more than 1,000 military aircraft, two Russian naval fleets, up to 36,000 tanks and armored vehicles and all Russian airborne units — began as President Vladimir Putin held talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping in the Russian port city of Vladivostok. REUTERS

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Can your relationship survive an affair?

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ASK PHIIRST:

Whether you're partnered or single, investing in your mental health doesn't have to be a solo journey. No one knows this better than the Philadelphia Institute for Individual, Relational & Sex Therapy (PhIIRST). At the end of the day, it's all about braving life's challenges so that you can be your best self.

Many people see infidelity as a relationship deal-breaker, but it doesn't have to be. Whether it's a one-time mistake or an active affair, it's more than possible to rebound—if you're willing to do the work. Metro sat down with Dr. Chris Fariello, a couples therapist and Director of PhIIRST, for some inside information.

Is it possible to get past an affair? Absolutely. In fact, about 80 percent of people who walk through my door work through the affair and actually end up having a better relationship than they had prior to the affair. Some research suggests that about 70 percent of couples who attempt to work through affairs end up staying together.

How? Affairs are usually devastating to a relationship, but most of the time, it's a catalyst for recognizing an underlying problem. Most people work really hard at relationships during the early days, when the relationship tends to be the focus of their lives. But as time goes on, they start going back to friends and work; bills and kids. Distance is created in the relationship, and when someone doesn't feel connected and committed in the same way anymore, they'll look elsewhere to feel a sense of comfort, satisfaction, relief and release. Affairs are often a very seductive way of feeling alive and valued again.

For people who fear their relationship is broken because of an affair, how can therapy help? It really starts with a commitment to the process. You have to decide that this is really what you want—a relationship with your partner that will include sexual fidelity. If you're willing to do that, then therapy tends to help uncover how the affair happened in the first place. Then we go into rebuilding the relationship again, recreating that sense of trust, and reprioritizing the relationship in a way that creates greater satisfaction for both people. It's very much about doing the inner work.

Why can't I fix it on my own? Many people come to therapy hoping we're going to fix their partner, but the reality is that we're going to do the work on ourselves. People are not born with the skills to work through these conflicts, so they often fall back on their natural coping strategies, like denial and avoidance, to deal with it. What typically happens is they believe things will resolve themselves because they talked about it and made up. The truth is that unless you *really* work through the issues, you're going to cycle back to infidelity again.

If you're suffering through the heartache of infidelity, exploring couples therapy is the best way to get to the root of the problem and rebuild your relationship. PhIIRST has locations in Center City and Media, Pennsylvania. Their team of experts is dedicated to helping you work through it all and live your best life. Visit www.phiirst.com to learn more.

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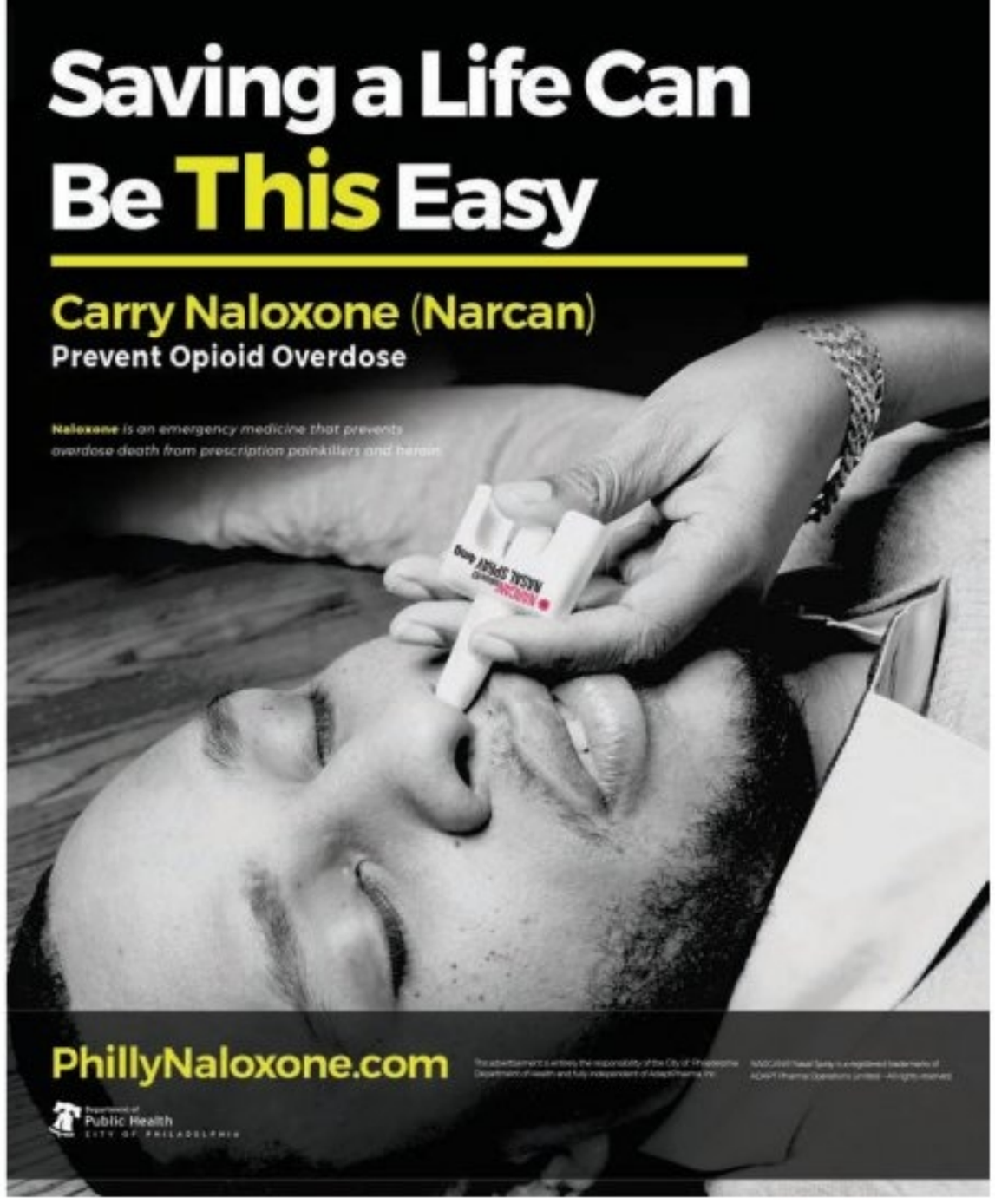

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Pat King
Grumble Editor

READER WRITE-INS:

PEDESTRIANS NOT FOLLOWING THE RULES!
There are certain laws that not only keep people safe, but also justify our right to "take turns" so that we can live in what is close to a fair society. My grumble is against pedestrians that cross against green lights for traffic at crosswalks. Philly is a busy city like any other, so I'm going to not focus on those that don't use crosswalks. But at least look both ways and make an effort to hurry up to the other side if a car is coming. My grumble is for those who don't look at changing lights (and don't care anyway) or try to time their crossing so that they aren't stuck in the middle of Market Street when the light changes green. What boils my blood is when folks realize the light is turning and just literally do not appear to give a single "f" about all the folks in traffic who have been waiting their turn to cross. Now we have to watch you saunter across (again, not even picking up the pace when it's green) like the world revolves around you. You, dear pedestrian, are just an a--hole.
— **Kevin Reid**, *Metro Philly reader*

LEAVE YOUR DOGGIES AT HOME!
I do not believe any animals should be in bars! Come on, people. Yes, some of them are loyal and adorable, however bars are strictly a getaway for HUMANS. Leave the doggies home. The dogs themselves most likely don't want to be in a place like a bar anyway!
— **Lola Campbell**, *Metro US reader*

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Every day we will post a new photo and give you the chance to send in the funniest caption to go along with it. We'll publish the best caption the following day. Send us your best ideas to **@metronewyork @metroboston @metrophilly**

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The winning caption from Lisa Mahoney, *Metro Boston reader*

TOMORROW'S PHOTO:

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Aries Do your best to work amicably. You'll accomplish more if you can get along with others and concentrate on doing what you do best. More action and less talk will get the job done.

Taurus Embrace change and don't look back. Use your intelligence and knowhow to get things done properly. A kind gesture will help you avoid upsetting a loved one.

Gemini Take a closer look at what others are doing. You may have to make an adjustment to uphold your end of a bargain. Don't trust someone making idle promises.

Cancer Go over every detail and size up your situation before making a move. Look for the best way to bring others together to lighten your load. Coordination will control the outcome.

Leo Don't initiate change. Wait and see what needs to be done, and choose the amount of time, money and effort required rather than overdoing it.

Virgo Sort through any differences you have with a friend or relative calmly if you want to make progress. A change of pace, location or mode of communication improves your outlook.

Libra Don't make a big deal out of a trivial situation. Let things unfold naturally, and adapt to the changes happening around you. Do your share and avoid complaints.

Scorpio Don't let an emotional situation lead to an argument. You'll do better if you are less aggressive and more empathetic to other people's needs. Don't disrupt things, facilitate them.

Sagittarius How you help others will make a difference. If you take over other people's responsibilities, they will never learn how to take care of themselves. Oversee rather than overdo.

Capricorn If you give whatever you do your best shot, positive change will come about. Money is heading your way. Collecting an old debt, making an investment or looking over your resources is favored.

Aquarius Leave well enough alone. You are best off taking a breather and figuring out a way to move forward with the least amount of stress. Reject temptation.

Pisces You've got plenty to gain by following your instincts. A chance to collaborate with someone should be considered carefully. Don't mix business with pleasure. A change of heart is likely. EUGENIA LAST

Everything you need to know about the Outlaw Music Festival 2018

The all-day, Willie Nelson-curated country fest returns this weekend.

A.D. AMOROSI
letters@metro.us

At 85 years old, Willie Nelson, a son of Texas and one of country music's most prolific songwriters and performers, is doing more with his time on earth than millennials a quarter of his age. This weekend alone, along with playing Camden's BB&T Pavilion with his annual Outlaw Music Festival, Nelson releases "My Way," his 68th studio album, and one dedicated to the memory of, and songs associated with, his old friend Frank Sinatra.

To say that Nelson does barroom classics like "One for My Baby (And One More for the Road)" doesn't say enough about how lovely Willie's tribute to Old Blue Eyes sounds. Nelson is also front-and-center on a tribute album to another old pal with "King of the Road: A Tribute to Roger Miller." If hearing Nelson, Kris Kristofferson, and Merle Haggard trade verses on "Old Friends" doesn't bring a tear to your beer, buddy, you ain't living.

All that new Willie music sets us up for Nelson's live annual Outlaw Music Fest party, dedicated to his old pals who made hard-drinking and rough-living country music with a honky-tonk edge. The point is, nothing will stop Nelson from making music — not time, not illness, not lost friends. He's too busy concentrating on the friends playing his Outlaw Fest with him.

Outlaw Music Festival 2018 lineup

The idea of outlaw country music was born with the likes of Nelson, Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings and other like-minded fellaheen who didn't play by the rules. Maybe the lyrics were a little more poetic and personal. Maybe the guitars were a little louder and dirtier. In that outlaw spirit, Nelson has continued on, and curated his touring party as such. His son Lukas Nelson, of Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real — a rocking band that has been paired up with Neil Young for several collaborative albums and tours — definitely has that outlaw spirit.

Nelson's other son Micah Nelson, who performs as Particle Kid, has his own weird visions of country and indie pop worth beholding. So does the Tedeschi Trucks Band — the nasty, tangy blues rock toast of Jacksonville, led by married guitarists Susan Tedeschi and Derek Trucks. Yes, Tedeschi is an outlaw and as bad as they come. So is Greensky Bluegrass (don't let the gentle name fool you).

And while Willie Nelson and his large band play all of their stoner classics ("It's All Going to Pot," "Roll Me Up and Smoke Me When I Die,") and hits ("Still Not Dead," "On the Road Again," "Always on My Mind"), watch out for Van Morrison. What the legendary blue-eyed soul vocalist is doing here, no one knows. And that's what makes him outlaw. Along with releasing a dynamic new album ("You're Driving Me Crazy") co-starring Philadelphia Hammond organist Joey DeFrancesco (who I pray makes an appearance), Morrison too has had a busy 2018, releasing multiple albums and making other Outlaw tour stops playing his FM radio staples such as "Moondance," "Brown Eyed Girl" and "Gloria."

Outlaw Music Festival 2018 date and ticket info

The fest is Saturday, Sept. 15 at BB&T Pavilion, 1 Harbour Blvd., Camden, N.J. Tickets are $299.50+, and available through ticketmaster.com.

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Who's coming back for 'American Horror Story: Apocalypse'?

The highly-anticipated crossover between the "Murder House" and "Coven" seasons features many familiar faces.

ANDREW HUSBAND
letters@metro.us

This Wednesday, the eighth season of Ryan Murphy's hugely popular anthology series, "American Horror Story," will premiere on FX. Subtitled "Apocalypse," the latest installment in the television horror franchise promises to be one of its best.

Much of this has to do with the apocalyptic story and setting of the new season, which sees the planet succumb to some kind of world-ending catastrophe that, among other things, entails the rise of the Antichrist. "Apocalypse" is also exciting, however, because it is essentially a crossover of the show's first and third seasons, "Murder House" and "Coven." This means that many of the same characters who haunted those seasons will be back for more.

Recurring cast members is nothing new in the world of Murphy's "American Horror Story." Sarah Paulson, Evan Peters and many more have starred in many of the anthology's disparate seasons, often playing wildly different characters. With the "Apocalypse" crossover, it seems they (and many others) will be playing the same roles they originated in the "Murder House" and "Coven" seasons.

Especially Paulson, who played Cordelia

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The gang's all here.
ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Goode in season 3 and Billie Dean Howard in season 1. Considering the more fanciful elements promised by the "Apocalypse" storyline, it's no surprise that "Coven" member Cordelia is back for another round.

It also seems ripe for the return of Billie, the medium from season 1 who revealed the "Pope's box" and its foretelling of the end of the world.

Peters' Tate Langdon, a particularly violent ghost from "Murder House," will be making an appearance in season 8. The actor will also be playing a brand new character, as evidenced by the first full trailer for "Apocalypse," but little is known about him.

Aside from Peters' Tate, the Langdons are also well-represented by Jessica Lange's Constance and Cody Fern's Michael, the latter being the literal Antichrist. Constance is the controlling and vengeful mother of Tate, a mass murderer whose ghostly form terrorized the living in "Murder House." As for Michael, he is the product of Vivien Harmon's (Connie Britton) rape by Tate, and therefore the bringer of the end times. Fern is a newcomer to the "American Horror Story" family, but his character is not.

Speaking of Vivien, both she and her deceased husband, Ben (Dylan McDermott) are back. As victims of the so-called "Murder House" in season 1, they hang on as ethereal spirits and, in Vivien's case, the mother of the Antichrist. Taissa Farmiga's Violet Harmon from "Murder House" is also back, as is her "Coven" character, Zoe Benson. Other returning "Coven" members include Madison Montgomery (Emma Roberts), Queenie (Gabourey Sidibe), Misty Day (Lily Rabe) and Myrtle Snow (Frances Conroy), whose association with the third season's witches academy will no doubt bring them into the "Apocalypse" fold.

"American Horror Story: Apocalypse" premieres this Wednesday at 10 p.m. on FX.

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4 Best smart displays for your home

Smart speakers have recently become a worldwide tech trend. However, these devices are already evolving to transmit images and video. Metro highlights the best smart displays.

DANIEL CASILLAS | METRO WORLD NEWS

LG WK9 ThinQ

Like most smart displays, WK9 by LG works with Google Wizard, but it has integrated Chromecast as well. The device also features an 8" touch screen, a camera, built-in WiFi and Bluetooth.

Amazon Echo Show

This Amazon-developed device is designed around Amazon's virtual assistant, Alexa. But it also features a 7" touch screen that can be used to display visual data to accompany your responses, as well as to play video and make calls, with a 5-megapixel camera. The Echo Show has a pair of speakers and motion sensors to automatically activate the screen when someone enters a room.

JBL Link View

This JBL smart display takes the listening experience a step further by incorporating an 8" high-definition touch screen display and a 5-megapixel front camera. The Link View provides excellent sound quality and is ideal for anyone who consumes a large amount of content on a daily basis. Users can view images, stream audio and video, and ask questions to the Google Wizard.

Lenovo Smart Display

Lenovo recently decided to bet on smart assistants with its Smart Display, a 10", 1,920x1,200-pixel display device that uses Qualcomm's SDA 624 chipset and a built-in 720p resolution camera. In addition, this device works with Google Assistant to help perform certain tasks and give you information via a female voice.

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NFL Power Rankings: Week 2

Ranking the top teams in the NFL ahead of Week 2.

LUKE MILLER
letters@metro.us

Jay Ajayi and the Eagles maintain their spot atop the rankings. GETTY IMAGES

1. Philadelphia Eagles
The Super Bowl MVP edition of Nick Foles wasn't on display in Philadelphia as the defending champs opened the season, but the Eagles didn't need that Nick Foles either. Jay Ajayi looked ready to slot into as much of a workhorse role as the Eagles are willing to give him. He scored both of Philadelphia's touchdowns. The Eagles next face the Buccaneers, who suddenly are looking threatening.

2. Minnesota Vikings
Kirk Cousins turned in a very Case Keenum debut in Minnesota and Dalvin Cook returned to action with 95 total yards. The running back's best run of the day was, however, marred by a fumble. Still, the Vikings cooled off the 49er hype around the league and looked every bit the NFC title contender they were in 2017.

3. New England Patriots
The Patriots certainly didn't need to lose another skilled player on offense, but Jeremy Hill is now done for the season. That didn't stop Tom Brady from throwing three touchdown passes. After one week, Phillip Dorsett and Rex Burkhead are the early contributors to watch alongside, of course, Rob Gronkowski.

4. Los Angeles Rams
The Rams got some contributions from their new stars Monday night: Brandin Cooks had 87 yards receiving and Marcus Peters was one of three Los Angeles players to intercept Derek Carr. After trailing to start the game, the Rams outscored the Raiders 23-0 in the second half to close out the first weekend of football with one of the most impressive victories.

5. Kansas City Chiefs
We said the Chiefs would go as Patrick Mahomes did, and that looks like good news after this debut. The second-year quarterback threw four touchdowns, two to star receiver Tyreek Hill, who also had a 91-yard punt return score to start the afternoon's scoring. This Kansas City team is going to be fun to watch, unless you're a Chargers fan.

Best of the rest

6. Ravens
7. Jaguars
8. Packers
9. Falcons
10. Panthers
11. Steelers
12. Saints
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POOR OFFICIATING IS RUINING THE NFL

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It's always been my policy not to complain about referees after my team loses, because, right or wrong, it sounds like sour grapes.

So, now that the Eagles beat the Falcons, 18-12, last Thursday night, let me say this: Officiating is ruining the NFL. Our favorite sport has become a sleep-inducing three-hour festival of zebra parades, flying flags and mind-numbing explanations that sound like someone parsing the federal tax code.

Last week's opener featured 26 penalties totaling 236 yards — more yards than the Eagles gained on offense. You certainly can blame the two teams for sloppy play, in part the result of putting many of their starters in storage through the preseason.

But it's a lot more than that. There are ever-evolving regulations governing how players can use their helmets and how they can hit quarterbacks. Most players — and even some referees — admit they have no clear sense of what's allowed this season.

So the refs tend to call everything. Atlanta's Grady Jarrett got flagged for roughing Eagles quarterback Nick Foles on a play where the only way he could have avoided a penalty would be to turn his body into a human magic bullet and defy the laws of physics by flying away in midair.

Overall, there were 226 penalties for 1965 yards in the first 14 games of the NFL season. And that doesn't include those that were declined. Watching a game on TV means focusing your eyes on the corner of the screen after every big play, waiting to see that red "flag" graphic and muttering under your breath as it's called back.

It was an ugly first weekend of football for the guys in stripes. GETTY IMAGES

It's easy to figure out why this is all happening. First, the owners are aiming to increase player safety, whether because of conscience or fear of another lawsuit. That's a noble intent, but probably impossible unless they really do turn the sport into two-hand touch.

Secondly, those new rules, coupled with today's incredible camerawork, have made on-field refs tentative. Let's be honest, it's impossible to monitor every movement of 22 large, violent men speeding around a football field. The camera upstairs is going to get it better. Human nature says, when in doubt, call it all.

And call it wrong. At least that's what we saw last Thursday. On an Eagles' fourth-quarter punt, the refs called offsetting penalties, negating a 59-yard boomer by Cameron Johnston.

Only problem? There were actually two penalties on Atlanta during the play and none on the Eagles. The refs, playing "whisper down the lane," lost the facts while communicating with each other.

My penalty screed here doesn't even include the "what's a catch" question, which seems as tough to solve as a Gordian knot. If you watched last Thursday's game, let me know if you comprehend why Julio Jones' juggling 51-yard grab near the sidelines was ruled a no-catch. Hey, it went in the Eagles' favor, but honestly...

And so, here we are. Our sport is polluted by outcomes too often determined less by great players than by self-doubting functionaries who fret about getting a nasty phone call from Roger Goodell. The rhythm gets destroyed, coaches get frustrated and fans throw up their hands in disbelief.

Football is the most marvelous sport in the world – but only when the players get to play it.

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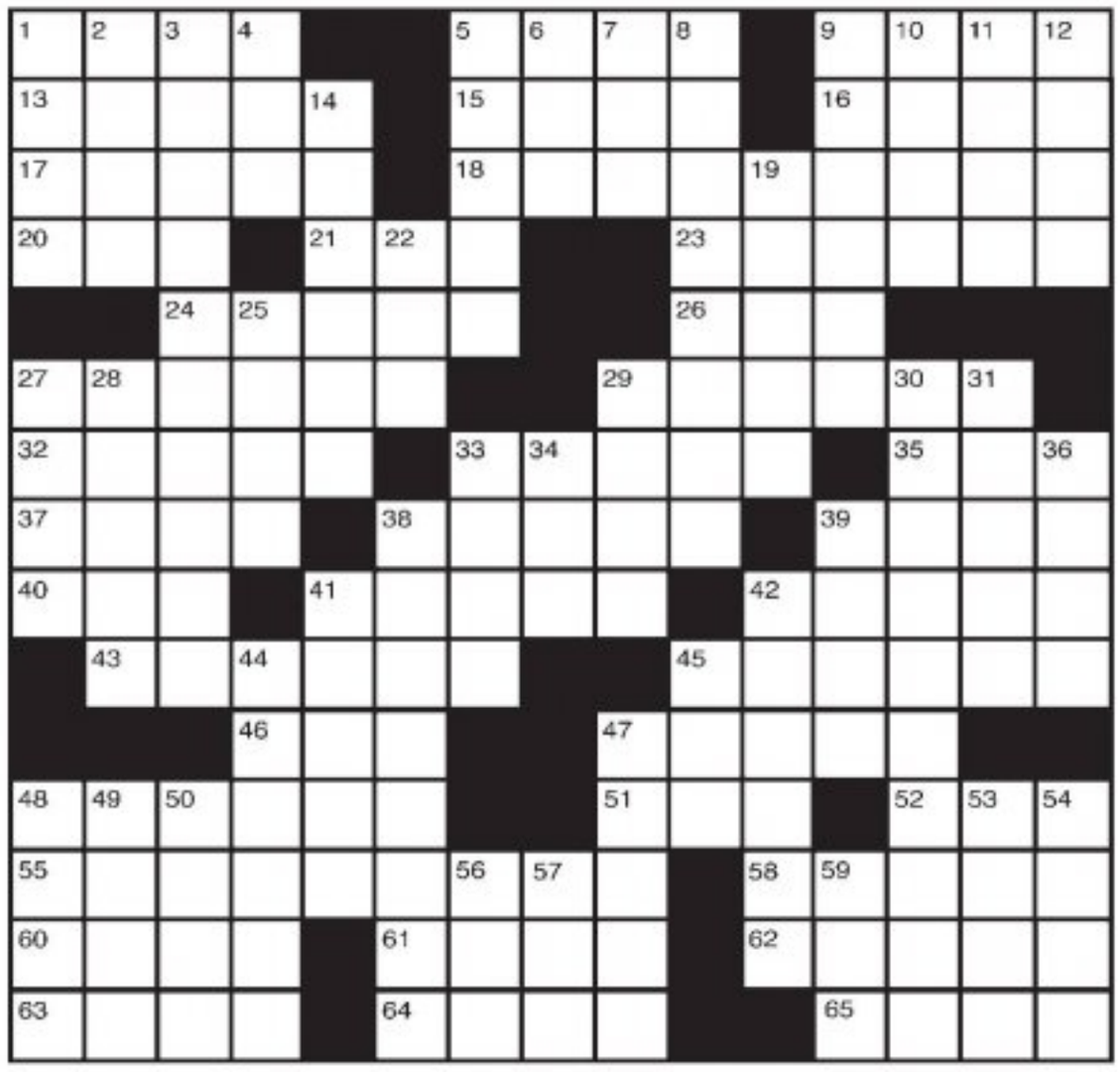

ACROSS
1 Money
5 Sassy child
9 Slender
13 Stomach ailment
15 "__ Window"; James Stewart classic
16 Flagstaff
17 Binge
18 Ready for use
20 Fraternity letter
21 Hang limply
23 Woods
24 Burial sites
26 Spanish article
27 Contemptuous writing
29 Tendons
32 Grown-up
33 Tarkenton & Drescher
35 Chicken's mother
37 Cooper or Sinise
38 "Nothing __!"; firm refusal
39 Monetary penalty
40 Years lived
41 Mark one's cattle
42 Steed
43 Respect highly
45 Dirty
46 __-been; one no longer popular
47 Once every 24 hours
48 Deadly vipers
51 FedEx competitor
52 High chair accessory
55 Victoria's Secret purchase
58 Once and again
60 Opposite of a boon
61 Hammerer's target
62 Tear to bits
63 Edibles with fragile shells
64 Black Jack & Juicy Fruit
65 Chances

DOWN
1 Part of a tooth
2 Mont Blanc's range
3 Holy writings
4 TV's "__ Haw"
5 Boasts
6 Gun the engine
7 Motorists' assn.
8 Insignificant
9 Few and far between
10 Part of the ear
11 Misfortunes
12 Bump into
14 Vacation destination
19 Mortgages, e.g.
22 Supped
25 Easter flower
27 Long story
28 Saying
29 Make wood smooth
30 Helicopter
31 Good judgment
33 Beer topper
34 "The Adventures of __ Tin Tin"
36 Requirement
38 Ranch or French
39 Aluminum wrap
41 Chicago team
42 Lifts with effort
44 Graduate papers
45 Gullible fool
47 Sword fights
48 Singer & actress Lane
49 Boring event
50 "Phooey!"
53 Like petits fours
54 Hospital ward furniture
56 Thirsty Parisian's need
57 Curved edge
59 "__ says so?"; skeptic's reply

metro.us/wordsearch

C	Z	X	A	L	S	O	N	I	C
O	E	B	Z	O	O	V	C	M	J
M	L	O	Y	L	N	U	N	I	O
P	D	X	I	V	Y	Y	I	C	Y
U	A	T	A	R	I	V	N	R	S
T	U	N	Z	A	A	D	T	O	T
E	J	Z	V	G	A	M	E	S	I
R	E	L	L	O	R	T	N	O	C
K	E	Y	B	O	A	R	D	F	K
P	J	T	T	R	K	C	O	T	L

Atari
Computer
Controller
Game
Joystick
Keyboard
Mario
Microsoft
Nintendo
Ryu
Sonic
Sony
Video
Xbox
Zelda

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Category: Film

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U	H	D	I
L	T	E	R
K	H	N	C
	E	I	

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		5					6	3
6			1		4		2	
				5				
2	5	9	4					7
4		6				5		2
3					5	6	4	9
				1				
	8		7		2			1
1	6					3		

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■	B	E	G	■	S	C	O	F	F	■	A	L	S	O
L	I	N	E	■	I	L	I	A	D	■	C	O	C	A
O	N	C	E	■	C	O	N	T	R	A	C	T	O	R
U	G	H	■	S	I	N	K	S	■	P	E	S	T	S
■	■	A	M	P	L	E	■	■	T	A	P	■	■	■
C	A	N	A	R	Y	■	■	T	A	R	T	A	R	■
A	N	T	S	Y	■	T	R	A	C	T	■	B	E	T
S	N	I	T	■	T	H	A	N	K	■	H	O	B	O
S	I	N	■	F	E	A	T	S	■	L	E	V	E	R
■	E	G	O	I	S	T	■	■	S	O	L	E	L	Y
■	■	■	N	E	T	■	■	P	L	U	M	B	■	■
A	P	R	I	L	■	S	Q	U	I	D	■	O	W	L
B	L	O	O	D	H	O	U	N	D	■	O	A	H	U
L	E	A	N	■	A	L	I	C	E	■	F	R	O	G
E	A	R	S	■	S	O	P	H	S	■	A	D	S	■

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Advance

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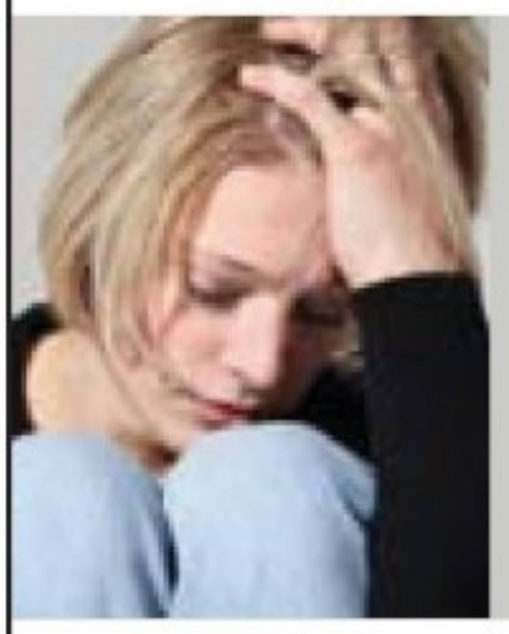

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